



State of Utah

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February 20, 2003; Revised with mileage figure July 8, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, Georgia Pacific, Hebe Mine, M/015/072, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: February 11, 2003
Time of Inspection: about 2:00 to 3:10 p.m.
Conditions: Mostly cloudy, 30's
Participants: Russ Harms, Georgia Pacific; Paul Baker and Susan White, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

There was no specific reason for the inspection. We were in the area and decided to visit the site.

Getting to the site:

There are two ways to get to the site, and the mileages are similar. The road starting at exit 105 from I-70 has a ford, but the road conditions are otherwise similar between the two different routes. To get there from exit 105, head south for 0.4 miles and take the right fork. After another 4.85 miles, there is another intersection, and you head right. It is 6.1 miles from this point to a T in the road. Once you get to the T, turn left for 1.9 miles to the mine. There is one place along this route where it is necessary to ford South Salt Wash, and there is a small, narrow bridge over Muddy Creek.

From exit 97, go about seven miles south and turn left for about 3.9 miles to the mine.

Observations:

The operator has transplanted about 40 plants of Wright fishhook cactus, a listed endangered species, from areas that have been or are intended to be disturbed. We looked at several of these plants and estimated about half to three-fourths of them are alive and appear to be doing well.

The operator is bonded to disturb 17.5 acres, but the actual disturbance is probably half or less of this. The mine is not currently operating. Photos 1 and 2 are different views of the pit area.

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Georgia Pacific, Hebe Mine

M/015/072

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Adjacent to the mine is an ephemeral drainage, and the operator has pushed material across the drainage in two locations, blocking it (Photos 3 and 4). There is currently no mining on the other side of the drainage which is area C-3. This is an area for which the operator recently gained approval to mine.

There are some piles of overburden material around some of the edges of the mine, and the topsoil pile is apparently the pile nearest the entrance to the site.

There was a small amount of trash near the entrance to the mine area, and some shot cord was scattered around, but the site was otherwise very clean. This garbage doesn't create any problems.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Although the minerals regulations do not require that soil stockpiles be signed, soil stockpiles must be protected. I strongly suggest that the operator put a sign on the stockpile so this material is not accidentally used as fill.

Unless the operator needs to gain access to the other side of the drainage from two locations, the material from one of the crossings should be pulled out. A culvert should be installed in any crossings that remain. I cannot tell that the plan addresses the issue of installing culverts in the drainage, but rule R647-4-107.22 requires that if natural channels are to be affected by the mining operation, the operator will take appropriate measures to avoid or minimize environmental damage. I consider installation of one or two culverts to be within the requirements of this regulation.

At this time, the site is small enough that it does not appear concurrent reclamation is possible. If or when mining recommences, the operator should continue to be aware of the eventual need for reclamation and place overburden, waste and soil piles where it will be simplest to grade them into the mined areas.

jb

cc: Russ Harms (Georgia Pacific)

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